

Abbey Together

The newsletter of Amesbury Abbey Group

February 2026



Fantastic February

As the days begin to lengthen and the first signs of Spring start to appear, our homes have been filled with music, laughter, colour and community spirit. From captivating performances and cultural celebrations to friendly competitions and exciting new nature initiatives in the grounds; it's been a joyful and vibrant start to the year, weather notwithstanding!



Naam



Our Bee Project

While we have had the hatches battened down; we have been enjoying looking forward to what the drier days might hold out in the grounds. One initiative we are particularly excited about as the weather warms is our bee project. We are excited to be supporting Tom of Admire Apiaries by hosting some of his hives in the park.

Tom came to our rescue last year when a colony of bees made a home in one of our Abbey Mews garages. He quickly fell in love with the Abbey and asked if he could begin beekeeping here – of course, we said yes.

Tom currently manages several hives within the Larkhill Garrison grounds,

which are thriving and help to support local pollination. We hope to do the same for biodiversity in our own little patch. Fingers – and wings – crossed, we may even enjoy a pot of Abbey honey in the summer. Enjoy these pictures of the apiary setup in full swing. Tom has been slaving away, and the new hives are looking wonderful.





Cherry Blossoms & Creativity

In preparation for the Chinese New Year celebrations, the residents set up action stations in the snug, creating the most wonderful cherry blossom decorations for the dining room. Sadly, the bees in the grounds will not get to enjoy these pretty blooms, but they looked absolutely beautiful nonetheless. What a talented bunch we have living with us.

A Flip-tastic Pancake Day

Never mind the Winter Olympics – Sutton’s annual Pancake Day Competition was fierce this year, with both staff and residents competing for glory. Much hilarity ensued – suffice it to say some flippers were more skilled than others!

Taking first place for the residents was Lady Jacqui Miller, with an impressive 22 flips in 30 seconds. For the staff, Diksha claimed victory with 25 in 30 seconds. Bravo to all our competitors, who were excellent sports!





Celebrating Chinese New Year in Style

Residents had a wonderful time welcoming in the Chinese New Year of the Fire Horse. Celebrations started with a mouth-watering feast of Chinese cuisine courtesy of our very own Mr Pun. Catherine and the Dining Room team went all out with their costumes, while Nona decorated everywhere beautifully for the occasion.





Then, for a fantastic follow-up, tables were cleared away, and nursing home residents were joined by many from Independent Living to watch absolutely captivating performances by the Bournemouth Chinese Dance Troupe, who wowed the audience with stunning costume changes and beautiful traditional Chinese dancing. What a show!

The performers kindly stayed on afterwards to chat with residents and enjoy tea and cake. A perfect end to a perfect afternoon.

Kung Hei Fat Choi to you all!





Be my Valentine

Roses are red, violets are blue – our Valentine's lunches were delightful, and the decorations were too!

There were lovely celebrations across the Group this year. At the Abbey Nursing Home, the beautifully dressed tables really set the scene. The Mews hosted a retro dining experience featuring prawn cocktail, fillet steak and a showstopper Black Forest Gateau, which everyone raved about. At Sutton Manor, residents dined together and enjoyed a wonderful luncheon, complete with roses for all. What a treat!





Van Gogh Alive

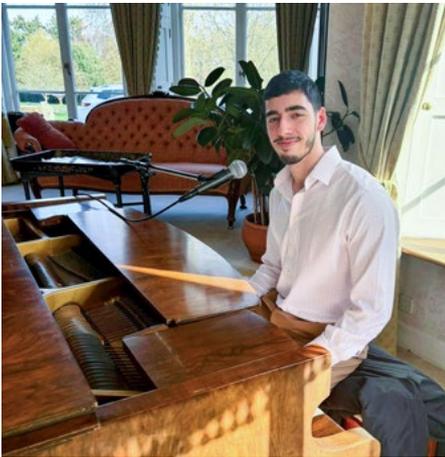
Sutton Manor residents had the most amazing afternoon at Winchester Science Centre's Planetarium for the Van Gogh Alive experience this month. It was no ordinary art exhibition. Art and technology were in perfect harmony throughout the 45-minute multi-sensory show, which brought Van Gogh's most iconic works to life.

The plays of light across the vast dome, accompanied by the artist's own words and beautiful music, were captivating - an absolute feast for the senses. We exited, fittingly, through the Sunflower Room, awash with hundreds of sunflowers to admire. Highly recommended to all if you can still get a ticket!



Jazz & Sunshine

Sutton Manor residents enjoyed a lovely sunny morning - hopefully the first of many - in the drawing room, accompanied by the dulcet tones of local jazz singer Joel Phelps. A delightful way to spend the morning before sitting down to a delicious lunch.



Sutton's Coming Soon: Music & Alpacas

There are lots of exciting events coming up at Sutton Manor next month. Two highlights - Back by popular demand, crooner extraordinaire Ryan Bishop, plus the amazing Alpaca Adventure experience. Do make a note in your diaries, you won't want to miss out!



RYAN BISHOP

**WEDNESDAY
25TH MARCH 11AM**

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND, SINGING A MIXTURE OF GENRES IN THE DRAWING ROOM, PLEASE BE SEATED BY 10.50.

**Thursday 12th March
11am**



**COME AND LEARN ABOUT THE ALPACAS
AND MEET THEM UP CLOSE.**

**ALPACA
ADVENTURE
AT SUTTON
MANOR.**

The Annual Abbey Easter Egg Hunt

The eagerly anticipated Abbey Egg Hunt is fast approaching. Don't forget to let us know if you can make it to this always great fun event. The Easter Bunny needs to be prepared.

THE GREAT AMESBURY ABBEY GROUP

Easter Egg Hunt



**FRIDAY 3RD APRIL, 11AM,
AMESBURY ABBEY**

**COME AND HUNT FOR EASTER EGGS IN OUR
BEAUTIFUL GROUNDS! CHILDREN &
GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT GRANDCHILDREN OF
RESIDENTS AND STAFF ALL VERY WELCOME**

BRING A BASKET TO COLLECT YOUR EGGS!!

*RSVP ESSENTIAL INCLUDING HOW MANY CHILDREN YOU
ARE BRINGING! WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE.*

(NIBBLES AND DRINKS FOR THE GROWN UPS!)